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My name is Steven Tatum, and I teach and live in Hartford, Connecticut. I am writing today in support of Raised Bill 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut. In so small and forward thinking a state as ours, I find it the apparent tolerance of the dramatic inequalities and inequities that persist to be very troubling. One place these inequities show up most dramatically is in our school funding. The challenges schools have faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic have made these inequities all the more apparent, where districts that serve more affluent communities have been able to adapt much more quickly and with far fewer obstacles than we have in a district like Hartford. Passing this bill would be a step in the right direction to ensure that the recovery from this crisis in our schools does not further perpetuate the rapidly widening opportunity gaps that persist in our system. Funding inequities across and within our schools are preventing our students--particularly English Language Learners, students of color and children from low-income families--from getting the excellent education they deserve. Connecticut students have faced unprecedented hardship over the past year, and cannot wait multiple years to attend a fully-funded school.